

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) A method of printing user-selected ones of a collection of images, comprising:

printing a plurality of proof sheets each having a thumbnail representation of at least some of the images, and at least one user-markable field indicative of at least one corresponding image when marked;

optically scanning a plurality of user-marked ones of the proof sheets to detect marked ones of the at least one user-markable field;

processing the marked ones of the fields to determine at least one selected image associated with each scanned proof sheet and a print count associated with each selected image; and

printing the at least one selected image after the plurality of user-marked proof sheets have been scanned, wherein the printing includes:

determining identical ones of the selected images;

summing the print counts of the identical selected images to form a total print count T; and

printing T copies of one of the identical selected images.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the print count is a print count P, the method including:

printing P copies of each non-identical one of the selected images.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the at least one user-markable field is further indicative of a print characteristic associated with at least one of the images;

wherein the processing includes processing the marked ones to identify at least one specified print characteristic associated with at least one of the selected images; and

wherein the determining includes determining identical ones of a combination of the selected images and the associated specified print characteristics.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the printing T copies includes:
rendering the one of the identical selected images once to form a rendered
image; and
printing the rendered image T times.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the images are digitally stored
images, and wherein the proof sheet includes at least one identity marker capable of
locating each digitally stored image.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the processing includes forming
a print job, the method comprising:
storing the print job in a memory.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, comprising:
determining a printing cost associated with printing the at least one selected
image; and
inhibiting the printing if the printing cost exceeds a user-specified maximum
cost.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method of printing user-selected ones of a collection of images, comprising:

- printing a plurality of proof sets, each set including a proof sheet having thumbnail representations of at least some of the images,
- at least one user-markable print characteristic field associated with at least one of the thumbnail representations, and
- at least one user-markable print count field associated with at least one of the thumbnail representations;
- optically scanning at least some of the proof sheets to detect user-marked ones of the print characteristic fields and print count fields;
- processing the user-marked ones to determine selected images, and further to associate at least one print characteristic and a print count with each selected image, each selected image and associated print characteristics forming a print specification;
- determining identical ones of the print specifications;
- summing the print counts associated with all of the identical ones to form a total print count T; and
- printing T copies of the selected image associated with the identical ones in accordance with the associated print characteristics.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of proof sets represents the collection of images.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein each proof sheet in one of the proof sets represents a unique subset of the collection of images, and wherein each individual proof sheet in the one proof set represents the same images as another individual proof sheet in each other proof set.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the printing a plurality of proof sets includes printing on each proof sheet an event identifier associated with the proof set.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, comprising:
associating a user identifier with one of the plurality of proof sets.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the user identifier is unique for each proof set.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, comprising:
printing a summary sheet indicative of the print count and at least some of the print characteristics for each selected image associated with each user identifier.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the print characteristic is at least one of print size, paper type, and media marking substance.

18-42. (Canceled)